

**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners’  
Committee on Physician Assistants  
April 21, 2006**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners’ Committee on Physician Assistants was held in the Cumberland Room located on the Ground Floor of the Cordell Hull State Office Building on April 21, 2006.

**Members Present:** Glen Alexander, PA; Anne Arney, Consumer Member;  
William Blalock, PA; Jonathan White, PA; Janet Johnson, OPA and  
Johnny Nowlin, PA

**Staff Present:** LaTonya Shelton, Administrator; Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager; Nicole  
Armstrong, Associate General Counsel; Jerry Kosten, Rule Coordinator

Glen Alexander, Committee Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. The Chairman determined that a sufficient number of members were in attendance to constitute a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jonathan White made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2006 meeting. Anne Arney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager of the Medical Board, stated the financial report indicated a projected cumulative balance of \$173,559.03.

**Disciplinary Report**

The Committee reviewed the written report submitted by the disciplinary coordinator which indicated two licensees are being monitored and are in compliance.

**Investigations Report**

In the absence of Denise Moran, Director of the Bureau of Investigations, Marsha Arnold informed the committee that there are seven open complaints in the Bureau of Investigations regarding physician assistants. Ms. Arnold also informed the Committee that if they had any detailed questions that Mrs. Moran could be called to the meeting to answer any questions.

### **Manager's Report**

Marsha Arnold reported on the activities that have transpired in the administrative office between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2006 concerning Physician Assistants. The report read as follows:

22 new applications, 20 new licenses, 91 mailed out renewals and 3 licensure reinstatements. The actual processing time of renewals in our office is 4.7 days. The actual processing time for new applications in our office is 51.4 days. The number of active licensees as of March 31, 2006 is 819.

### **Ratification of New Licenses, Temporary Permits and Reinstatements**

William Blalock made a motion to ratify the new licenses, temporary permits, and retirements. Jonathan White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Tennessee Professional Assistant Program (TNPAP)**

Mr. Mike Harkreader discussed the TNPAP report with the Committee. For the period of July 2005 through March 31, 2005 TNPAP had a total of four (4) participants referred from different sources. Mr. Harkreader also informed the Committee that one participant was discharged for non-compliance and has been referred to the Bureau of Investigations for processing.

### **OGC Report**

In the absence of Robert Kraemer, Assistant General Counsel, Ms. Nicole Armstrong informed the Committee that the Criminal Background Checks (05-1025) rulemaking hearing was on March 18, 2005 and the amended rule was also adopted by the Committee on April 25, 2005 and the Medical Board on May 17, 2005 and sent to the Attorney General on May 23, 2005. It was filed with the Secretary of State on March 17, 2006 and becomes effective on May 31, 2006. Ms. Armstrong also stated that the 2005 Legislation Amendments (05-1325) the amendments went to rulemaking hearing on September 20, 2005. The amendments were adopted by the Committee on October 2, 2005 and the Board on November 15, 2005, and were sent to the Attorney General on November 21, 2005. They are still there. The Advertising (06-1009) amendments went to rulemaking hearing on April 6, 2006. After response to comments they are ready for adoption at this meeting. Stays, Reconsideration and PLLC & PC Amendments- (05-1529) these amendments went to rulemaking hearing on December 20, 2005. The amendments were adopted by the Committee on January 13, 2006 and the Board on January 24, 2006, and were sent to the Attorney General on January 27, 2006. They are still there. Ms. Armstrong also stated that there were five cases open in the Office of General Council pertaining to the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants.

### **Rule Action**

Mr. Kosten informed the Committee about the rulemaking hearing held on April 6, 2006 regarding Advertising . Mr. John Williams, Attorney for Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants, was the only one who attended. Mr. John Williams wrote a letter regarding the proposed rule on advertising: The Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA) is the professional organization of physician assistants (PA's) in Tennessee. TAPA is very concerned about the wording of proposed rule 0880-3-.20(3)(f). TAPA recommends that the Committee on Physician Assistants (COPA) take one of the following two actions with the respect to subsection (f): 1). Eliminate this subsection from the rule altogether; or 2) Delete the words "in any advertisement or on any sign for that location" in the 4<sup>th</sup> line of subsection (f) and substitute the following words in their place: "on at least one conspicuous sign for that location". Mr. John Williams informed the Committee that the Board of Medical Examiners was very hostile towards changing the rule that was already in place regarding advertising. After questions, answers and discussions Jonathan White made a motion to adopt the language of number (2) from Mr. Williams' proposal with the deletion of item (3)(f) and William Blalock seconded the motion. Mr. Alexander made a suggestion that someone from the Committee should attend the next Board of Medical Examiners meeting to be held on May 16-17, 2006. After further discussion it was requested that Mr. Alexander be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Medical Examiners meeting.

### **General Discussion**

Jerry Shaw, Cordova, TN - Ratification of action by administrative office to notify practitioner of loss of authorization to practice as a Physician Assistant. Mr. Jonathan White made a motion to ratify notification and Mr. William Blalock seconded the motion.

Approve to continue the contract for TN Nurses Foundation (Physician Assistants)-(Amendments for one year)- Ms. Johnny Nowlin made a motion to renew the contract and Ms. Janet Johnson seconded the motion.

### **"Noteworthy" on the Internet.**

This meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m. The next meeting is July 7, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Millennium Maxwell House Nashville.

Approved this 7th day of July, 2006 by the Committee on Physician Assistants.

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Secretary